Remarks:

Claims 1-41 are pending in the above-identified patent application. By this Amendment Applicant has amended claims 1, 19 and 27, and has added new claims 31-41, in order to further define the present invention.

Several amendments have also been made to the drawings in response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings set forth in the above Office Action. Specifically, FIG. 1 has been amended to include the textual label "DBMS" in connection with element 104 and the label "WEB INTERFACE" in connection with the elements 108. No new matter has been added as a consequence of these drawing amendments.

In the above Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-12, 18-22 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,911,143 issued to Deinhart et al. ("Deinhart") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,164 B1 issued to Nummelin et al ("Nummelin").

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's full consideration of Applicants arguments filed on February 25, 2003, and the Examiner's responses to those arguments set forth on Pages 2-5 of the above Office Action. For the sake of brevity, Applicant does not again repeat each argument made in support of patentability of the pending claims previously set forth on February 25, 2003, but rather incorporates those arguments herein and draws the Examiner's attention to the additional points below.

Applicant observes that pending independent claims 1 and 27 now each include elements substantially as follows:

> *displaying a view of a first of said project management trees associated with a first project included within said projects to a first user of said users wherein a scope of said view is determined based at least in part upon membership of said first user within a first of said user groups; and*
> *navigating among representations of a plurality of data objects of said first of said project management trees appearing within said view.*

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references or other known prior art describes determining the scope of a view of a project management tree based upon membership within a user group or enabling navigation among a plurality of data objects within such a view. For example, neither Deinhart nor Nummelin describe or suggest the display of a project management tree, the determination of the scope of the view of such a tree based upon membership in a user group, or the navigation among data objects within such a view. This

aspect of the present invention is described by the present specification at, for example, pages 33-37 and FIGS. 13-15.

Applicant now directs the attention of the Examiner to pending independent claim 19, which now describes the inventive project manager as containing:

> *a functions component configured to perform a plurality of functions upon said plurality of data objects, and*
> *a security module disposed to restrict access to said plurality of functions in accordance with predefined access rights, and*
> *a navigation component for facilitating navigation among said plurality of data objects;*

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references or other known prior art describes a functions component or a security module as claimed. The above elements of pending claim 19 are described by the present specification as follows:

> FIG. 14 is a block diagram depicting functional components of the project manager 1210 according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. A user at the web interface 108 is represented by block 1402. The user can navigate the project tree 1404 via the Navigation component 1404. *In addition, the user 1402 can perform functions on project nodes. As indicated by component 1406, the user 1402 can perform the following operations on project tree nodes: add, edit delete and archive.*
> [35:5-10, italics added]

> A project tree, such as the project tree shown in FIG. 13, is represented by block 1413. A security module is depicted as block 1410. The security component 1410 is used to restrict access to functions 1406 and views of the project tree 1413 (via the navigation component 1404) in accordance with user and/or group access rights.
> [35:11-14]

Applicant respectfully submits that the known prior art fails to show or suggest a configuration of the type now recited by pending claim 19.

The subject matter of new claims 31-41 is generally described by the present specification at pages 33-36.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define subject matter patentable in view of the cited prior art. Applicant respectfully requests entry of these amendments prior to further examination of the above-identified application. The undersigned would of course be available to discuss the present application with the Examiner if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a discussion could lead to resolution of any outstanding issues.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-3117.

Dated: July___, 2003

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Respectfully submitted,
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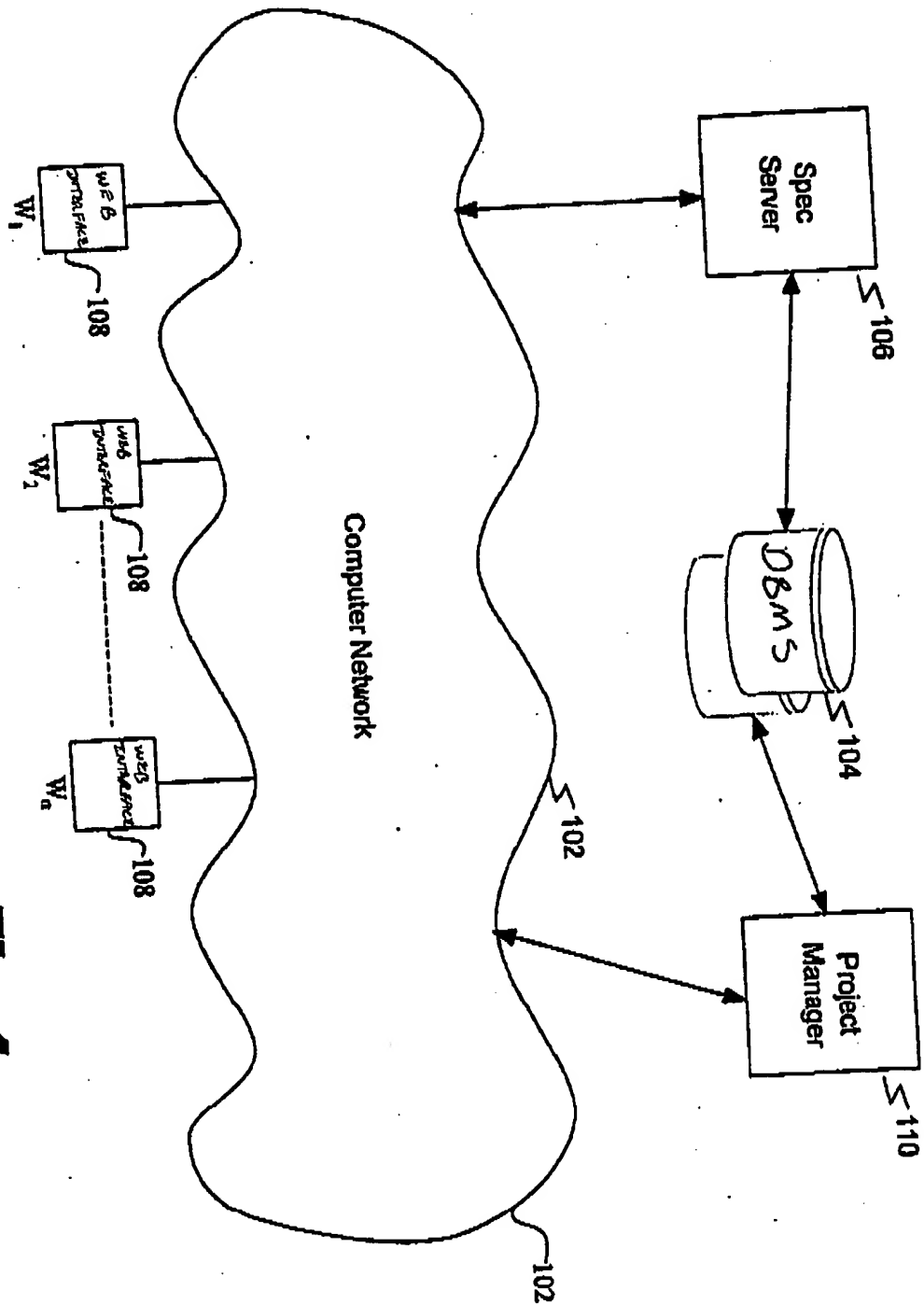Kevin J. Zimmer
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Fig. 1